



Size Up Your Carbon Footprint

To calculate your carbon footprint, visit CoolCalifornia.org

Once your carbon footprint has been calculated, aim to make it smaller!

Share these Energy and Money Saving Tips with Your Friends and Families

These tips can be used by people of all ages and backgrounds at home and at work.

For more information about how to reduce your Carbon footprint visit:

California Agencies

California Air Resources Board: Climate Change:
www.arb.ca.gov

California Environmental Protection Agency
www.calepa.ca.gov

California Dept. of Resources Recycling and Recovery
www.calrecycle.ca.gov

California Energy Commission
www.energy.ca.gov

California Public Utilities Commission
www.cpuc.ca.gov

Go Solar California
www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov

Federal Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
Climate Change
www.epa.gov

Energy Star (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
& U.S. Dept. of Energy)
www.energystar.gov

U.S. Department of Energy: Green Power
www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower

Organizations

Cool California
www.CoolCalifornia.org

Flex Your Power
www.fypower.org



Californians have the power to reduce their carbon footprints by properly conserving and effectively utilizing energy, water and natural resources.



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Reduce Your To Carbon Footprint





REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

California is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by continuing to pursue legislation that seeks to decrease carbon dioxide emissions. Together, Californians can work to cut carbon dioxide emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Each person engages in daily activities that release carbon emissions – emissions that contribute to global warming. The collective amount of these emissions released by an individual into the environment is referred to as a “Carbon Footprint.” Even people living environmentally friendly lifestyles have carbon footprints, albeit smaller carbon footprints than others. Californians have the power to reduce their carbon footprints by properly conserving and effectively utilizing energy, water, and natural resources.

The listed suggestions are stepping stones towards achieving California’s environmental goals. Use these tips and examine your daily life for more ways to reduce your carbon footprint!

Green Your Transportation

Passenger vehicles are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in California (about 27% of the total).

Walk, bike, take public transportation or carpool to work or when running errands at least one day a week.

Combine several car trips into one and avoid idling.

Follow the speed limit and save significantly per gallon of gasoline.

Keep your tires properly inflated to save up to \$160 annually for a California family with two cars.

Change the Lights

If all California households permanently replaced five incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, it would be like taking 414,000 cars off the road. By doing this, your household can save about \$35 each year in energy costs.



Unplug It

About 75% of energy used by home appliances is consumed while they are turned off but plugged in. Unplug when not in use or plug cords into power strips that can be turned off and on as needed to save \$50–\$75 annually.

Set Your Thermostat for the Season

Set thermostats in summer to 78° degrees or higher; in the winter, set thermostats to 68° or lower during the daytime, and 55° at night or when you’re away. Do this easily with a programmable thermostat and save about \$180 a year on home cooling and heating bills.

Dry-up Household Water Consumption

As much as 19% of California electricity is used to pump, transport and treat water.

Turn off water when not in use.

Take shorter showers.

Stop unseen leaks by reading your meter.

Install low-flow shower heads and aerators on your faucets (utility companies often freely distribute these devices).

Surprisingly, dishwashers use less water than washing dishes by hand. Air-drying dishes saves even more energy.

Install and use water efficient landscaping and irrigation methods.

Increase Energy Efficiency at Home

Take advantage of free home energy audits offered by many utility companies.

Purchasing appliances with the EnergyStar label can save you up to \$75 each year.

Cook in your microwave to use two-thirds less energy than your stove.

Keeping your fridge stocked prevents it from warming up when the door is open.

Use major appliances such as clothes washers and dishwashers after 7 p.m. to avoid peak hours.

To reduce carbon emissions associated with energy use, purchase alternative energy.



Go Solar

Solar homes qualify for federal income tax credits of up to 30% of the system cost.

Reduce your energy bills by up to 60% by installing solar energy panels. Solar-powered homes are most efficient in the summer when energy is most expensive.

If considering buying a new home, explore the growing industry of new Solar homes.

Be a Better Consumer

Use re-usable mugs, water bottles and shopping bags. If you purchase a beverage every work day, a re-usable mug can save you \$10–\$200 per year.

Reuse as many things as possible and recycle at home and work. CalRecycle has more information.

Make Your Yard Greener

Start a compost pile to reduce kitchen and yard waste. Contact your city or county government for information about free composting workshops and discounted or free composting bins.

Control weeds by handpicking them and then applying mulch from wood chips or grass clippings. This mulch acts as natural fertilizer, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Cut down on the amount of yard waste you create by grasscycling – leaving grass clippings on the lawn.

Use native, slow growing plants that don’t require as much trimming or water.

Grow a vegetable and herb garden to save money and reduce trips to the grocery store.

